

**HAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
February 3, 2003 7:00 PM**

PRESENT: James A. Workman, Chairman, Bonnie B. Searle,
William Sullivan
James S. Barrington, Town Manager
Karen Anderson, Administrative Assistant

I. SALUTE TO THE FLAG: Boy Scout Troop 177 led the audience in the flag salute.
A Moment of Silence was held to honor the crew of Space Shuttle Columbia.

Mr. Workman read a Proclamation from the Board to congratulate Troop 177 on their 70th Anniversary.

Mrs. Searle stated that scouting has always had a special place in her heart and she knows that young people that are involved in scouting have wonderful opportunities and outstanding challenges. She said she was grateful that they are here tonight and noted that Hampton is proud to have three Boy Scout troops in Hampton, #177, #176 and #380. She thanked the leaders and said that Hampton is a much better place because of all of the participants. Mr. Sullivan noted that when he was in Boot Camp – the soldiers that had been former scouts were adapting to the situation better than all the others. The Board congratulated the scouts.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Mrs. Searle pointed out that the next important date for residents is the voting on March 11th. She asked the Manager when the sample ballots and absentee ballots will be ready. Mr. Barrington said that he will check with the Town Clerk on that date. Mrs. Searle said that this is the time for anyone who does not want to stand in the voting booth for an untold time to request an absentee ballot. Mrs. Searle said that the town warrant has almost 60 questions, and between the town and school districts there is a total of \$95 million dollars to be voted. Mrs. Searle noted that there are a limited number of warrants available at the town office.

Mr. Sullivan said that it appears there will be several contested races at the election. He announced that there will be a Candidates Night sponsored by the PTA on March 6th at 7:00 PM in the Selectmen's Meeting room.

Upcoming Legislation

Mr. Workman told the Board that Hampton's Legislative Delegation will be at the Selectmen's meeting next week to update the Board on the upcoming legislative session. There will be a hearing on HB 565 regarding the establishment of a Hampton Beach Commission on February 12th at 9:30 AM at the Legislative Office Building, Room 201. Mr. Workman said the legislation regarding the trust funds is in committee and a hearing date has not been set yet.

Mr. Sullivan said that the Board of Selectmen should be thinking about who may have an interest in serving on the Hampton Beach Commission. Mr. Barrington asked if the Board of Selectmen wanted him to go to the hearing and speak in favor of this bill. Mrs. Searle said she did not want him to go because there is enough to do here with Town Meeting coming up. Mr. Workman and Mr. Sullivan encouraged the Manager to attend the hearing if it fit into his schedule, and if not a letter of support should be sent to endorse the bill.

III. OLD BUSINESS

Town Manager's Report

Mr. Barrington reported that the sidewalk plow is in the final stages of repair and should be back on the road this week.

Mrs. Searle said that she did not want to micromanage public works, but noted while watching the sidewalk plow that the snow shoots onto a snow bank and runs back onto the sidewalk. She suggested that the Department think about getting an extension for the plows shoot so the snow could be placed higher. Mr. Sullivan said that Public Works has had some complaints about the snow from sidewalks being put onto private property. Mr. Barrington acknowledged that there have been some complaints and at the same time the department tries not to put the snow onto the road. Mrs. Searle said that every other place she has lived the property owner is responsible for the sidewalks in front of their properties. Mr. Barrington said that is common. He said that although the town plows the sidewalks in Hampton, he has seen several property owners around town clearing the sidewalks in their own neighborhoods and that is appreciated.

Mrs. Searle asked about the status of the private roads issue. Mr. Barrington said that with the preparations for the deliberative session he did not have a chance to work on that last week.

Insurance Settlement

Mrs. Searle asked if the tally for the legal expenses associated with the insurance settlement would be ready for next week. Mr. Barrington said that it would be. Mrs. Searle asked if the expenses would go back to when the issue began with Attorney McEachern's expenses. Mr. Barrington said that he anticipated the itemization would go back to June, 2002 when the settlement discussions began.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Rotary Request to Hang Banner

Mr. Barrington reminded the Board that he is a member of the Rotary Club of Hampton. He explained that Mr. Letourneau has submitted a request for the Rotary Club to advertise the annual auction to raise funds for local charities by way of a banner across Lafayette Road for a 10 day period prior to the auction. Mrs. Searle stated that she has no problem with the banner over Route 1 but does have a problem with the auction being televised all day on Channel 22 on March 9th, the Sunday prior to the town voting on March 11th. Mr. Barrington said that the auction had been scaled down from previous years and would not be all day, but he did not know the specific hours.

Mr. Sullivan said that the Board would be discussing all of the warrant articles on Saturday, March 8th which will be televised. Mrs. Searle asked who gave permission for the auction to be televised. Mr. Sullivan said that he was not concerned with the auction being televised and had not thought about the date being close to the election. Mr. Barrington said that traditionally it has been held a little later. Mrs. Searle said that she feels Channel 22 should be used exclusively, the weekend before the voting, to educate the public about the issues they will be voting on the following Tuesday. She said she thinks it is wrong and a slap in the face to the voters to have an auction on the Sunday before they vote instead of presenting materials that would be informative. Mrs. Searle asked when the deliberative session would be re-run. Mr. Barrington said that it is too long for a regular slot and he understands that it will run for full days.

Mr. Workman said that the warrant and Town Meeting can be run continuously from now until voting and there will still be people that do not look at it. The information was available for the deliberative session, but other than town employees very few people attended. Mr. Barrington will bring the specific hours for the auction to the board next week.

Ocean Boulevard Sidewalk

Mr. Sullivan said that the town has had requests to clear the sidewalk on the state side of Ocean Boulevard and he asked that the Board endorse Mr. Barrington's recommendation that the town not do that. Mr. Workman said that he has spoken with Mr. Mattson from D.R.E.D. and Mr. Burlage from the Department of Transportation and neither of them has any interest in having the State plow that sidewalk now or in the future, because of a lack of equipment, manpower and liability for continuity. Mr. Workman said that he also has concerns with the liability if the town were to take care of that. Mrs. Searle noted that the snow needs to be taken away because it can't be blown into the ocean. Mr. Barrington said that there is not a good solution to this request. Mr. Workman said that he has heard this complaint for several years.

Packet Information

Mrs. Searle said that in the Board's packet this week she found a couple things that had no references to agenda items, the statutes applying to Conservation Commissions and some Zoning Board of Adjustment minutes. Mr. Barrington said that Mr. Warburton had requested a packet of the Zoning Board minutes be put together and it was copied for the Board members. Mr. Sullivan asked what precipitated his request. Mr. Barrington did not recall the specific request and believes he may have deleted the e-mail request. Mrs. Searle said that when she requests something she does so in writing and it is copied for all other Board members. Mrs. Searle said that she understands that Attorney Gearreald had been asked to render a decision regarding the Conservation Commission for the deliberative session and she would like to see that original request.

Emergency Public Works Calls

Mrs. Searle asked if there is an emergency number for Public Works, such as to the police department for residents to use when they feel there is an emergency and public works is closed. Mr. Barrington said that it may be possible for Public Works to forward their phone lines to the Police Department or Fire Department after hours.

V. MINUTES

The minutes will be reviewed next week.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Nursing Home Application

Mrs. Searle MOTIONED that the Board approve the consent agenda.

Mr. Sullivan SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Sullivan MOTIONED that the meeting be adjourned. (7:45 PM)

Mrs. Searle SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Chairman

